

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA  
Criminal No. 23-324 (NEB/LIB)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

DONALD DUANE ARMSTRONG, JR.,

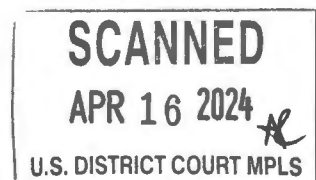
Defendant.

**PLEA AGREEMENT AND  
SENTENCING  
STIPULATIONS**

The United States of America and the defendant, DONALD DUANE ARMSTRONG, JR., agree to resolve this case on the terms and conditions that follow. This plea agreement binds only the defendant and the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Minnesota (hereinafter "the United States" or "the Government"). This agreement does not bind any other United States Attorney's Office or any other federal or state agency.

1. **Charges.** The defendant agrees to plead guilty to Count One of the Indictment, which charges the defendant with Conspiracy to Make a False Statement During the Purchase of a Firearm, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(a)(6) and 371. The defendant fully understands the nature and elements of the crime with which he has been charged.

Upon imposition of sentence, if there are remaining counts, the government agrees to move to dismiss those remaining charges against the defendant contained in the Indictment.



2. **Factual Basis.** The defendant is pleading guilty because he is in fact guilty of Count One of the Indictment. In pleading guilty, the defendant admits the following facts and agrees that those facts establish his guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The defendant agrees that on May 26, 2023, he and his co-defendant conspired with each other to make a false statement in the purchase of a firearm. Specifically, on May 26, 2023, the defendant and co-defendant entered the Reeds Family Outdoor Outfitters, a Federal Firearms Licensee in Walker, Minnesota. The co-defendant purchased a Glock model 23 G5, 40 caliber semi-automatic pistol, bearing serial number AFXA713 with the intent to transfer the firearm to the defendant, who was a convicted felon. The defendant agrees that he had his co-defendant purchase the firearm because he knew that he was prohibited from purchasing the firearm. In purchasing the firearm, the defendant agrees that his co-defendant lied when he filled out, signed, and dated an ATF Form 4473 certifying that he was the actual transferee/buyer of the firearm.

The defendant voluntarily and intentionally joined in the agreement to make a false statement to a federal firearms licensee. When the defendant joined in the agreement, the defendant knew the purpose of the agreement. The defendant knew his actions violated the law.

The defendant agrees that on June 14, 2023, law enforcement lawfully executed a search warrant at his residence. There, law enforcement seized 14 firearms, including the firearm purchased by the defendant and co-defendant on May 26, 2023. Along with the firearms, the defendant possessed a large amount of ammunition and high-capacity magazines. The following firearms were seized at the defendant's residence:

- (1) a Palmetto State Armory 7.62x39 rifle bearing serial number GF3-63853;
- (2) a Smith & Wesson model M&P .223/5.56 rifle bearing serial number TT46165;
- (3) a Kel Tec model Sub 2000 9mm carbine rifle bearing serial number FFW575;
- (4) an Aero Precision model M5 7.62x51 rifle bearing serial number US250535;
- (5) a Rock Island .45 caliber semi-automatic pistol bearing serial number RIA2435887;
- (6) a Kimber .45 caliber semi-automatic pistol bearing serial number K697771;
- (7) a Kimber model Stainless Raptor II 10mm semi-automatic pistol bearing serial number KF134331;
- (8) a Kimber model K6S .357 revolver bearing serial number RV092585;
- (9) a Glock model 20 Gen4 10mm semi-automatic pistol bearing serial number BXHE862;
- (10) a Glock model 35 40 caliber semi-automatic pistol bearing serial number BTUY501;
- (11) a Glock model 23 Gen5 40 caliber semi-automatic pistol bearing serial number AFXA713;
- (12) a Stevens model 320 12-gauge shotgun bearing serial number 200663H;
- (13) a Diamondback model DB10 .308 rifle bearing serial number DB-7024107; and
- (14) a Ruger model EC9S 9mm semi-automatic pistol bearing serial number 461-87368.

The defendant agrees that the government can prove that 10 of the 14 firearms seized were originally purchased by his co-defendant in 2022 and 2023.

3. **Waiver of Pretrial Motions.** The defendant understands and agrees that the defendant has certain rights to file pre-trial motions. As part of this plea agreement, and based upon the concessions of the United States within this plea agreement, the defendant knowingly, willingly, and voluntarily gives up the right to have any pending motions resolved and to file any additional pre-trial motions in this case. The defendant agrees that, by pleading guilty, he is withdrawing any motions previously filed.

4. **Waiver of Constitutional Trial Rights.** The defendant understands that he has the right to go to trial. At trial, the defendant would be presumed innocent, have the right to trial by jury or, with the consent of the United States and of the Court, to trial by the Court, the right to the assistance of counsel, the right to confront and cross-examine adverse witnesses, the right to subpoena witnesses to testify for the defense, the right to testify and present evidence, and the right to be protected from compelled self-incrimination. The defendant understands that he has the right to an attorney at every stage of these proceedings and, if necessary, one will be appointed to represent him. The defendant understands that he has the right to persist in a plea of not guilty and, if he does so, he would have the right to a public and speedy trial. By pleading guilty, the defendant knowingly, willingly, and voluntarily waives

each of these trial rights, except the right to counsel. The defendant understands that a guilty plea is a complete and final admission of guilt and, if the Court accepts the guilty plea, the Court will adjudge the defendant guilty without a trial.

5. **Additional Consequences.** The defendant understands that as a result of this conviction, the defendant could experience additional collateral consequences, such as the loss of the right to carry firearms, the right to vote, and the right to hold public office. If the defendant is not a United States citizen, as a result of a plea of guilty, the defendant may be removed from the United States, denied citizenship, and denied admission to the United States in the future. The defendant has discussed with his attorney the punishments and consequences of pleading guilty, understands that not all of the consequences can be predicted or foreseen, and still wants to plead guilty in this case.

6. **Statutory Penalties.** The defendant understands that Count One of the Indictment, charging Conspiracy to Make False Statements During Purchase of Firearms in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(a)(6) and 371 are felony offenses that carry the following statutory penalties:

- a. a maximum of five years in prison;
- b. a supervised release term of not more than three years;
- c. a maximum fine of \$250,000; and



- d. a mandatory special assessment of \$100 under 18 U.S.C. § 3013(a)(2)(A).

7. **Guidelines Calculations.** The parties acknowledge that the defendant will be sentenced in accordance with 18 U.S.C. § 3551, *et seq.* Nothing in this plea agreement should be construed to limit the parties from presenting any and all relevant evidence to the Court at sentencing. The parties also acknowledge that the Court will consider the United States Sentencing Guidelines in determining the appropriate sentence. The parties stipulate to the following guidelines calculations:

- a. Base Offense Level. The government maintains that the base offense level is 20. U.S.S.G. § 2K2.1(a)(4)(B). The defendant reserves the right to argue that the base offense level is 14. U.S.S.G. § 2K2.1(a)(6)(A).
- b. Specific Offense Characteristics. The government maintains that the offense level should be increased by 4 levels because the offense involved 10 firearms. U.S.S.G. § 2K2.1(b)(1)(B). The defendant reserves the right to challenge this enhancement. The parties agree that no other specific offense characteristics apply.
- c. Chapter 3 Adjustments. The parties agree that, other than acceptance of responsibility, no other Chapter 3 adjustments apply.
- d. Acceptance of Responsibility. The government agrees to recommend that the defendant receive a 2-level reduction for acceptance of responsibility pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(a). As the defendant has timely notified the government of the defendant's intention to enter a plea of guilty, if the total offense level is 16 or greater, the government agrees to recommend that the defendant receive an additional 1-level reduction pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(b). Whether these

reductions will be imposed shall be determined by the Court in its discretion. However, the defendant understands and agrees that the government's recommendations are conditioned upon the following: (1) the defendant testifies truthfully during the change of plea and sentencing hearings; (2) the defendant provides full, complete and truthful information to the United States Probation Office in the pre-sentence investigation; and (3) the defendant engages in no conduct inconsistent with acceptance of responsibility before the time of sentencing.

Nothing in this agreement limits the right of the government, pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1 and/or § 3C1.1 to seek denial of a reduction for acceptance of responsibility or an adjustment for obstruction of justice should the defendant engage in any conduct inconsistent with acceptance of responsibility.

- e. Criminal History Category. The parties believe that, at the time of sentencing, the defendant will fall into Criminal History Category II. U.S.S.G. § 4A1.1. This does not constitute a stipulation, but a belief based on an assessment of the information currently known. The defendant's actual criminal history and related status will be determined by the Court based on the information presented in the Presentence Report and by the parties at the time of sentencing. The defendant understands that if the presentence investigation reveals any prior adult or juvenile sentence which should be included within his/her criminal history under the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, the defendant will be sentenced based on his/her true criminal history category, and he will not be permitted to withdraw from this Plea Agreement. U.S.S.G. § 4A1.1.
- f. Guidelines Range. If the adjusted offense level is 21, and the criminal history category is II, the Sentencing Guidelines range is **41-51 months of imprisonment.**

If the adjusted offense level is 12, and the criminal history category is II, the Sentencing Guidelines range is **12-18 months imprisonment.**

- g. Fine Range. If the adjusted offense level is 21, the Sentencing Guidelines fine range is \$15,000 to \$150,000. U.S.S.G. § 5E1.2(c).

If the adjusted offense level is 12, the Sentencing Guidelines fine range is \$5,500 to \$55,000.

- h. Supervised Release. The Sentencing Guidelines' term of supervised release is one to three years. U.S.S.G. § 5D1.2.

8. **Revocation of Supervised Release.** The defendant understands that if the defendant were to violate any supervised release condition while on supervised release, the Court could revoke the defendant's supervised release, and the defendant could be sentenced to an additional term of imprisonment up to the statutory maximum set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3583(e)(3). *See* U.S.S.G. §§ 7B1.4, 7B1.5. The defendant also understands that as part of any revocation, the Court may include a requirement that the defendant be placed on an additional term of supervised release after imprisonment, as set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3583(h).

9. **Discretion of the Court.** The foregoing stipulations are binding on the parties, but do not bind the Court. The parties understand that the Sentencing Guidelines are advisory and that their application is a matter that falls solely within the Court's discretion. The Court will make its own determination regarding the applicable Guidelines factors and the applicable criminal history category. The Court may also vary and/or depart from the



applicable Guidelines range. If the Court determines that the applicable guideline calculations or the defendant's criminal history category is different from that stated above, the parties may not withdraw from this agreement, and the defendant will be sentenced pursuant to the Court's determinations.

10. **Agreements as to Sentencing Recommendation.** The parties are free to recommend whatever sentence they deem appropriate. The parties reserve the right to make motions for departures under the Sentencing Guidelines or for variances pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) and to oppose any such motions made by the opposing party. If the Court does not accept the sentencing recommendation of the parties, the defendant will have no right to withdraw his guilty plea.

11. **Special Assessment.** The Guidelines require payment of a special assessment in the amount of \$100 for each felony count of which the defendant is convicted, pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 5E1.3. The defendant agrees to pay the special assessment.

12. **Disclosure of Assets.** The defendant will fully and completely disclose to the United States Attorney's Office the existence and location of any assets in which the defendant has any right, title, or interest, or over which the defendant exercises control, directly or indirectly, including those assets held by a spouse, nominee or other third party, or any business owned or controlled by the defendant. The defendant agrees to assist the United States

in identifying, locating, returning, and transferring assets for use in payment of restitution fines, and forfeiture ordered by the Court. The defendant agrees to complete a financial statement within two weeks of the entry of his guilty plea. The defendant further agrees to execute any releases that may be necessary for the United States to obtain information concerning the defendant's assets and expressly authorizes the United States to obtain a credit report on the defendant to evaluate the defendant's ability to satisfy financial obligations imposed by the Court. If requested by the United States, the defendant agrees to submit to one or more asset interviews or depositions under oath.

13. **Forfeiture.** The defendant agrees to forfeit to the United States, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 924(d)(1) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c), the following firearms and associated accessories and ammunitions: (1) a Palmetto State Armory 7.62x39 rifle bearing serial number GF3-63853; (2) a Smith & Wesson model M&P .223/5.56 rifle bearing serial number TT46165; (3) a Kel Tec model Sub 2000 9mm carbine rifle bearing serial number FFW575; (4) an Aero Precision model M5 7.62x51 rifle bearing serial number US250535; (5) a Rock Island .45 caliber semi-automatic pistol bearing serial number RIA2435887; (6) a Kimber .45 caliber semi-automatic pistol bearing serial number K697771; (7) a Kimber model Stainless Raptor II 10mm semi-automatic pistol bearing serial number KF134331; (8) a Kimber model K6S .357 revolver bearing serial

number RV092585; (9) a Glock model 20 Gen4 10mm semi-automatic pistol bearing serial number BXHE862; (10) a Glock model 35 40 caliber semi-automatic pistol bearing serial number BTUY501; (11) a Glock model 23 Gen5 40 caliber semi-automatic pistol bearing serial number AFXA713; (12) a Stevens model 320 12-gauge shotgun bearing serial number 200663H; (13) a Diamondback model DB10 .308 rifle bearing serial number DB-7024107; and (14) a Ruger model EC9S 9mm semi-automatic pistol bearing serial number 461-87368.

The defendant agrees that the United States may, at its option, forfeit such property through civil, criminal or administrative proceedings, waives any deadline or statute of limitations for the initiation of any such proceedings, and abandons any interest he may have in the property. The defendant waives all statutory and constitutional defenses to the forfeiture and waives any right to contest or challenge in any manner (including direct appeal, habeas corpus, or any other means) such forfeiture on any grounds. To the extent the defendant has sought remission or otherwise challenged the forfeiture of the above-described property, he withdraws any such challenges.

**14. Waivers of Appeal and Collateral Attack.** The defendant hereby waives the right to appeal any non-jurisdictional issues. This appeal waiver includes, but is not limited to: the defendant's waiver of the right to appeal guilt or innocence, any issues relating to the negotiation, taking or

acceptance of the guilty plea, the sentence imposed or any issues that relate to the calculation of the Guidelines range, the supervised-release term and conditions imposed, any restitution obligations, and the constitutionality of the statutes to which the defendant is pleading guilty. The parties agree, however, that excluded from this waiver is an appeal by defendant of the guideline calculations or substantive or procedural reasonableness of the sentence if the Court imposes a sentence greater than 18 months' imprisonment.

The defendant also waives the right to collaterally attack his conviction and sentence under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 except based upon a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel. This collateral-review waiver does not operate to waive a collateral challenge under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 based on new legal principles enunciated in Supreme Court case law decided after the date of this Plea Agreement that are both substantive and have retroactive effect. For purposes of this provision, legal principles that are substantive and retroactive are those that narrow the reach of the offense of conviction and render the defendant's conduct non-criminal or that render the sentence imposed illegal.

The defendant has discussed these rights with the defendant's attorney. The defendant understands the rights being waived, and the defendant waives these rights knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily.

The United States agrees to waive its right to appeal any sentence except the government may appeal the substantive reasonableness of a term of imprisonment below 41 months' imprisonment.

15. **FOIA Requests.** The defendant waives all rights to obtain, directly or through others, information about the investigation and prosecution of this case under the Freedom of Information Act and the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. §§ 552, 552A.

16. **Complete Agreement.** This, along with any agreement signed by the parties before entry of plea, is the entire agreement and understanding between the United States and the defendant. By signing this plea agreement, the defendant acknowledges: (a) that the defendant has read the entire agreement and has reviewed every part of it with the defendant's counsel; (b) that the defendant fully understands this plea agreement; (c) that no promises, agreements, understandings, or conditions have been made or entered into in connection with his decision to plead guilty, except those set forth in this plea agreement; (d) that the defendant is satisfied with the legal services and representation provided by defense counsel in connection with this plea agreement and matters related to it; (e) that the defendant has entered into this plea agreement freely, voluntarily, and knowingly; and (f) that the defendant's decision to plead guilty in accord with the terms and conditions of this plea agreement is made of the defendant's own free will.

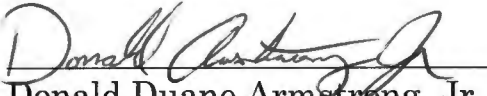


ANDREW M. LUGER  
United States Attorney

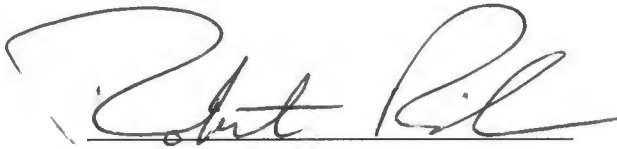
Date: April 16, 2024

BY:   
Evan B. Gilead  
Assistant United States Attorney

Date: 4. 16. 2024

  
Donald Duane Armstrong, Jr.  
Defendant

Date: 4/16/2024

  
Robert D. Richman  
Counsel for Defendant